

EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Frankfort, MI

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Frankfort for a Brownfields Pilot. Frankfort is a small, rural community of 1,500 residents that historically has been a lumber-producing community, a shipping port, and an agricultural center for fruit distribution. As the city has moved into the twenty-first century, it is transitioning from its rural roots to a scenic waterfront resort and tourist community.

Potential redevelopment property involves both waterfront and upland sites that historically have been used for commercial, industrial, or landfill operations. Some of these areas are physical eyesores, and most have environmental stigmas associated with previous use. Unknown levels of environmental contamination exist on many of these properties, and some of the properties have the potential to impact surface water and potable water. Several sites are known to be contaminated with documented releases to groundwater. In addition, Frankfort has several historic orchard properties within its city limits. Due to the potential presence of agrichemicals in surficial soils, these properties are potential brownfields sites.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Frankfort, MI

Date of Announcement:
May 2000

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets up to eight sites on waterfront and upland areas that have historically been used for commercial, industrial, or landfill operations and on historic orchard properties.

Contacts:

City of Frankfort Brownfield
Redevelopment Authority
(231) 352-7117

Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 5
(312) 353-3161

Visit the EPA Region 5 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

OBJECTIVES

Frankfort's long-term goal is to proceed with selective redevelopment and growth that enhances its resources and contributes to its overall economic well-being while still maintaining its rural, small town character. Frankfort aims to establish financial means and a process by which potential brownfields sites may be characterized and assessed with the goal of moving underutilized, unwanted, and/or vacant properties to economic and public reuse.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting site characterization and assessment activities on up to eight potential brownfields;
- Assessing the potential for environmental impact on residential development from historic agrichemical usage;
- Planning cleanup activities at the targeted sites; and
- Conducting community education and outreach activities at the targeted sites.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.